

Lastly, let me tell you some of the improvements we made in the bill.

We ensure that the new safety information for pediatric studies is promptly added to drug labels.

We require that the Food and Drug Administration quickly disseminate information gathered from pediatric studies to pediatricians and parents.

We authorize Federal dollars to study older off-patent drugs which are not eligible for the existing pediatric testing incentive through a new off-patent fund and creating a mechanism for private contributions from manufacturers to support the study of off-patent drugs through an existing NIH foundation.

We request frequent and thorough evaluations of the program so we can monitor our effectiveness in getting the needed drugs studied and, importantly, to have a sense of which needed drugs are not being studied despite FDA requests.

In fact, to ensure that vital drugs are not being left unstudied, the bill includes a mechanism to ensure that if a company declines to study an on-patent drug that is a continuing benefit to children, the Secretary will make public the names of those must-study drugs that have not been picked up and refer them to the NIH foundation for funding. As a backstop, these drugs can also be referred to the off-patent fund.

The bill creates a new Office of Pediatric Therapeutics at the Food and Drug Administration to coordinate activities related to children. It authorizes the existing Pediatric Oncology Subcommittee to provide recommendations and guidance so children with cancer can have timely access to promising new therapies.

Finally, because the bill will lead to increased participation of children in clinical trials—I mentioned 400 already in the last 36 months—we have requested a study of the appropriateness and adequacy of current Federal research protections for children in clinical trials. I will continue to work with Senator DEWINE and my colleagues to ensure the strongest protections are in place for this vulnerable part of our population.

We have relied generously on the expertise and counsel of Elaine Holland Vining of the American Academy of Pediatrics; Mike Isaac and Natasha Bilimoria of the Elizabeth Glaser Pediatric AIDS Foundation, who worked tirelessly on behalf of children; Helen Rhee with Senator FRIST; David Dorsey, David Nexon, and Paul Kim with Senator KENNEDY deserve tremendous thanks for their work in negotiating and working out the fine details of this bill.

I again thank our colleagues for their contribution today. I see the distinguished majority whip in the Chamber. I know the media may report nothing much happened today. Well, maybe it did not get a lot of debate, but we

passed this children's bill. And I see my friend from Maine, Senator COLLINS, and I want to thank her as well for her help on this bill.

The distinguished majority leader has arrived. I say to the majority leader, this bill did not generate huge debate. We did it unanimously. This bill has already made a huge difference in the lives of millions of children: 400 clinical trials in 36 months as opposed to 11 in the previous 7 years.

So we think we have done something worthwhile today, in the midst of other news, which will not likely generate a headline. The Senate put it on the agenda and did a good job.

Mr. REID. Will the Senator yield?

Mr. DODD. I will be happy to yield.

Mr. REID. This is another notch in the long line of things the Senator from Connecticut has done for children. Whether it was child care, dealing with the emotional health of children, it is one of many things the Senator from Connecticut has done. I guess this is kind of a celebration of his being a new father. So we congratulate him.

Mr. DODD. I will show pictures, if you like.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader.

Mr. DASCHLE. Mr. President, I join with my colleague from Nevada in expressing my heartfelt congratulations to the Senator from Connecticut and to others on the committee for their swift action on this bill. This is one of the highlights of the week. I do not know that there could be anything more important than providing good quality health care in all of its iterations to children. That is what this legislation does, and only because of the leadership of Senator DODD. I commend him. There may be a connection between fatherhood and legislative production on children, but whatever the motivation, as the Senator from Nevada has said, no one has put more time and effort and leadership into the issues affecting children than has Senator DODD. So it is a good way to end the week. It is another reason that staying in today was important, and we are grateful to him, grateful to the Members of the committee, Republican and Democrat, for the work done. I thank him.

Mr. DODD. I thank the majority leader.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader.

UPDATE ON EVENTS IN THE CAPITOL COMPLEX

Mr. DASCHLE. Mr. President, I noted yesterday I would be coming to this Chamber. I will take a moment, if I may, to provide our colleagues with a short update on the circumstances involving the Senate today.

This has been a trying time for all of us, in particular for my office and staff.

I am thankful for the outpouring of concern and support we have received, especially from the family of Senators. I am very grateful for their friendship, for their words of encouragement, for the strength they have given me and my staff over these very difficult days. It has meant a lot.

I wish to thank as well the many experts who have come to investigate and to help. I wish to recognize Secretary Thompson; Dr. Ken Moritsugu, deputy surgeon general; all of the Health and Human Services staff; Dr. John Eisold, our attending physician of the U.S. Capitol, and all the physicians who are working in his office; MG John Parker of the U.S. Army; Dr. Greg Martin, who has been unbelievable, an incredible help to my staff, to me, and to the entire Senate during this time.

There are a number of professionals who work with Dr. Martin at Bethesda Naval Hospital whom I want to recognize as well. Were it not for their effort, we would not be in the position we are today. They have been working around the clock analyzing the thousands of tests that were taken. Though they are not in the Capitol compound, they have had every bit as much to do with our success in dealing with these circumstances as anyone else. So we are extremely grateful to them for their work.

I want to thank as well the Centers for Disease Control, including Rima Khabbaz and Ali Khan; the District of Columbia Department of Public Health. Finally, I thank the members of the Senate family who have been working around the clock to address this situation, to coordinate our response, and see to it that the Senate was able to continue its important work.

Maybe first, among all of those, I thank our Secretary of the Senate and our Sergeant at Arms for their outstanding work. There were several nights where they literally did not go to bed. They stayed up the entire night working to be able to address the many challenges we were facing as we looked at the logistical and health concerns people had.

I also wish to thank Dr. BILL FRIST. He was in this Chamber earlier. He has been an amazing resource. While he is not present now, I know I speak for all of our colleagues in thanking him. He again spoke for all of us in a news conference wherein he was able to answer in very understandable ways many of these complicated questions. So I personally thank him, and I know I speak for everybody in thanking him as well.

The challenge facing all of these people, and all of us, is unprecedented. To a person, every official I have mentioned has responded in the most admirable way. Their poise, their professionalism, their compassion have been a comfort to all of us, especially to my staff and me.

I want to provide an update on where we stand based on Dr. Moritsugu's briefing a few moments ago. It is now 72 hours after this incident occurred, and we now can say we are confident about the health of the public. Beyond the 31 positive nasal swabs I reported yesterday, the results on nasal swabs analyzed to date have all—and let me emphasize all—come back negative. The CDC has determined no further nasal swabs are needed. Tests on all of the nasal swabs collected on Monday will be completed by the end of today, although we may not be in session, so I chose this moment to come and give at least this partial report.

A total of 278 swabs were taken Monday. At this time, there are no further positive results. So the number of positive results to date remains at 31. Everyone who has tested positive has been notified by medical authorities.

Let me put some rumor to rest because it has been circulating all afternoon that some member of the leadership has been provided with a positive test result. The unequivocal clarification in that regard is, that story is not true. There is no positive result among any members of Senate leadership.

Testing also continues on approximately 1,400 swabs collected Tuesday. Of those, preliminary results on approximately 600 have produced no new positives. To this point, the CDC investigation has established the exposure area as the fifth and sixth floors in the southeast wing of the Hart Building. Based on this determination, the CDC has said no further nasal swabs are needed there.

People who were on the fifth and sixth floors in the southeast wing of the Hart Building on Monday are being reminded to complete their full 60-day course of antibiotics, regardless of the results of their nasal swabs. Anyone who entered that area but has not received antibiotics should report to the treatment center at the Architect of the Capitol facility on the southeast corner of 6th and East Capitol Streets.

A thorough environmental sweep of the Capitol complex began last night. It went on throughout the night and continues today. Those sweeps were conducted by the EPA and the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health. Areas were swept in the Capitol, the Dirksen Senate Office Building, the Ford House Office Building, the Capitol Police offsite delivery center where all Capitol mail and deliveries go through security screening, and at this time there are no additional results to report.

The sweeps will continue, as we reported yesterday, over the next several days of the other areas of the Capitol complex. The entire Capitol complex will be swept, and so there will not be any area left unattended or unchecked before we are cleared.

Numerous additional samples have been taken of the ventilation systems,

and these samples are under evaluation. I think it is important to emphasize, too, at this time there is no evidence of contamination in the ventilation system.

Because of the extensive work being done, it is not clear when the Hart Building will reopen, but it will reopen as soon as we are absolutely confident it is completely safe.

I want to make one final point. The people who work in these buildings, regardless of their political affiliation, have come to the city and to the Congress because they believe in what this Nation represents to its citizens and to the world. Many have made sacrifices to do so. Some are accepting lower pay than they would receive elsewhere. Many are far from their families. All believe that by being here we can improve the lives of Americans and, in the process, make America stronger.

That letter may have been addressed to me, but these attacks didn't strike just my office. They struck at the heart of that belief. In the past couple of days, members of my staff, who have every right to be afraid, who have every right to take some time and be with their loved ones, have come to talk to me. More than one has told me they were more proud than ever to show up for work. This attack was meant to undercut that spirit. What I have seen in the past 3 days is all I need to know that the attack has missed its mark.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. JOHNSON). The Senator from Nevada.

Mr. REID. Everyone knows the close personal relationship I have with the majority leader. This statement I am making could come from any of the 99 Senators. It doesn't have to come from me.

The leader has gone out of his way to congratulate his staff, to compliment his staff, to talk about the great work the Sergeant at Arms and the Secretary of the Senate have done. They deserve every bit of credit that the leader has given them. Senator FRIST deserves the credit he has been given by the majority leader. But speaking for the whole Senate, there is no one who deserves more credit during this time of strife and trouble and turmoil caused by evil people trying to do bad things than our majority leader. He has stood very tall.

I am speaking for the entire Senate, the people of the State of Nevada, the people of New Jersey, the people of Minnesota, the people of Maine: Everybody in this country is so proud of the majority leader of the Senate. When the history books are written about people standing tall during a time of crisis, TOM DASCHLE will be at the top of that stack.

Mr. DASCHLE. I thank the distinguished Senator from Nevada for his kind and generous words. This has been

a difficult challenge for all of us. I am grateful.

I note that any time somebody gives me credit for "standing tall," I will take that as the highest compliment.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Maine.

Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, I echo the words of the Senator from Nevada. We have all been impressed with the tremendous grace and strength that our Senate majority leader has shown under unbelievable pressure. Our thoughts are with him and with his staff as they continue to go through this ordeal. He has, indeed, made every Member proud by his actions during this difficult time.

BETTER PHARMACEUTICALS FOR CHILDREN ACT

Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, I commend the Senator from Connecticut, Mr. DODD, and the Senator from Ohio, Mr. DEWINE, for today's passage of the Better Pharmaceuticals for Children Act. I am very pleased to be a cosponsor of this reauthorization. The American Academy of Pediatricians said it best. They saluted this law which we are now extending as being the single most important policy development to improve children's health that this body has ever taken. I am delighted to be a cosponsor of this important legislation.

I believe it will help facilitate breakthroughs in pharmaceutical treatments of children by ensuring proper testing and dosage. I commend the Senator from Connecticut and the Senator from Ohio for their excellent leadership.

(The remarks of Ms. COLLINS pertaining to the introduction of S. 1570 are located in today's RECORD under "Statements on Introduced Bills and Joint Resolutions.")

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Ohio.

CONGRATULATING SENATE STAFF

Mr. DEWINE. Mr. President, I rise late in the afternoon today of what has been a highly unusual day in the Senate—in Washington. I want to take a moment to congratulate all the people who are working, all the people who are working in the Senate Chamber, all the Members' staffs who are working. Hearings have been held today. The Senate has been in session and work is continuing. I thank them for their dedication. I thank them for what they mean for our country and what they have done to help our country.

The vast majority of people who work on Capitol Hill, at least from my perspective in life, are fairly young. They have gone through something that no members of staffs have ever gone through before. They have done very well. I congratulate them and thank them.